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- (1958) : Copepodes parasites d'Invertébrés des cotes de France. VII a. Characters spécifiques et sub-spécifiques à l'intérieur de genre *Conchylurus* Bocquet & Stock. *Proc. Kon. Nedrl. Akad. Wetensch.* Amsterdam, Ser. C, 61(3) : 308-24.
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- REDDIAH, K. (1960) : Copepods associated with Indian Molluscs. (a) Description of *Conchylurus maximus*, *Sanguinolaria (Soletellina) diphos* (Gmelin) (Lamellibranchiata-Psammobiidae). *J. Zool. Soc. India* 12(2) : 137-146.
- (1961) : Copepods associated with Indian Molluscs. (B) Description of two new *Conchylurus* species from *Meretrix meretrix* (L.). *Crustaceana* 2 (4) : 300-312.

25. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *CUSCUTA SANTAPAU* BANERJI & DAS IN WESTERN HIMALAYAS

While working on the flora of Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh, the author came across a few plants of this species growing along the banks of Tangling khud nala at Shongtong and at Kilba. The species was first described by Banerji & Das (loc. cit.) based on materials collected from East Nepal and Assam. Vaid & Naithani (loc. cit.) recently reported its occurrence in Chandanwari (Kashmir) and in New Forest (Dehra Dun). The present report from Shongtong and Kilba, besides being additional information about its distribution in the country, helps to some extent also in bridging the vast discontinuity in its distribution from Assam and East Nepal in the east to Chandanwari at the northwestern limit of the Himalayas. A careful search in the field and in herbaria may provide more data of its distribution elsewhere in the

Himalayas. The data on the distribution available now indicate that the plant has a wide distribution, probably occurring over the entire range of the Himalayas.

This species is often confused with *C. reflexa* Roxb. which it resembles closely. The characters which enable one to distinguish the two species have been dealt with in detail by Banerji & Das (loc. cit.) and Vaid & Naithani (loc. cit.). The figures of the floral parts of the two species in the plate in Banerji & Das (loc. cit. 88) are also very helpful in distinguishing the present species from *C. reflexa* Roxb.

The nomenclature of the plant is as follows :

Cuscuta santapau Banerji & Das in *Journ. Arn. Arb.* 46(1) : 87, 1965 ; Vaid & Naithani in *Ind. For.* 97(8) : 467-468, 1971.

The plant is usually seen in open situations on the margins of forests. The whole plant is creamy white or hay-coloured when young and turns pale reddish-brown later. The fruits are creamy white when mature ; they also turn pale reddish-brown on ageing. The stem and fruits are dotted with brownish-black spots which are clearly visible even in dried herbarium material.

Specimens examined : HIMACHAL PRADESH : Shongtong, on the banks of Tangling khud nala, alt. \pm 1970 m, 6th October 1971, K. P. Janardhanan 46486, in fls. & frts., parasitic on *Prunus persica* (Linn.) Stokes ; Kilba, hillslope above the Forest Rest House, alt. \pm 2100 m, 10th October 1971, K. P. Janardhanan 46577, in fls. & frts., parasitic on *Desmodium tiliaefolium* G. Don ; Sangla, alt. \pm 2700 m, 25th September 1964, N. C. Nair 34272, in fls. & frts., parasitic on *Desmodium tiliaefolium* G. Don (BSD).

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